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August 14, 2012

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 1425 (McLeod) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, I respectfully request your signature to SB 1425. This bill would improve the ability of county child welfare services to protect seriously abused children.

Under existing law, a parent found to have committed egregious acts of physical or sexual abuse, by a clear and convincing standard, may file a modification petition with the court alleging new facts or a change in circumstances to receive a hearing where the burden of proof is at a lower standard. This can delay permanency for the child and threaten to disrupt pre-adoption placements.

SB 1425 would require a court to order a hearing on a proposed modification of reunification services, custody or visitation orders concerning a child for whom reunification services were not ordered if the court finds by the same clear evidence standard that the best interest of the child would be met by the proposed change.

While the County of San Bernardino supports the reunification of families, there are certain instances when severe and egregious acts of abuse should clearly prohibit a parent from regaining custody.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully request you sign SB 1425. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Legislative Affairs Director at (909) 387-4280.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES, Chair
Board of Supervisors

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.